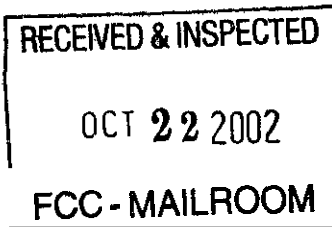


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October 15, 2002

By Federal Express

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 01-337

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On 24 September 2002, Mr. David Steward, one of the fifty Corporate Plus Members that comprise the 16,000 member National Minority Supplier Development Council, spoke with Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Michael J. Copps. The conversation was established to discuss the telecommunications industry in general, with particular emphasis on the regulation of broadband services. Mr. Steward expressed his concern on how the severe downturn in capital expenditures by the major service providers like SBC and Verizon has greatly affected members of the National Minority Supplier Development Council. Mr. Steward discussed how he would encourage the Commission to act this year to resolve the outstanding rulemaking proceedings to develop a cohesive broadband policy that does not create disincentives (such as unworkable access and pricing) for investment in new broadband technologies.

If you have any questions concerning this notice, please do not hesitate to contact me at 314-919-1485. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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Patricia DeSoto-Carr
Executive Assistant to:
David L. Steward
Corporate Plus Member of the
National Minority Supplier Development Council